

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG:ENRG:ECAF:OCON

SUBJECT: ECAF:MY CALL ON EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS

1. SUMMARY: DURING A FRIENDLY COURTESY CALL ON MARAMIS, HE INDICATED HIS MAIN PREOCCUPATION IS FINDING SOME SOLUTION TO THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE REGION WHICH HE CLAIMS STEM FROM MASS POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT. THIS EXPLAINS HIS STRONG DESIRE TO INCLUDE THE WORD "SOCIAL" IN HIS PROPOSED NEW NAME FOR THE ORGANIZATION. MARAMIS HOPES FOR FULL PARTICIPATION FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES IN THE ECAF ENERGY CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY. HE PLANS TO VISIT INDONESIA NEXT WEEK, THEN NEW YORK ON JANUARY 17-25, RETURNING VIA PAKISTAN. HE PLANS A VISIT TO SAIGON AND NEPAL BEFORE THE PLENARY SESSION IN MARCH BUT WILL NOT VISIT PEKING UNTIL LATER. MARAMIS DOES NOT EXPECT PRC TO SEND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ECAF IN BANGKOK PRIOR TO THE MARCH PLENARY MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A CONGENIAL MEETING WITH ECAF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY J. B. P. MARAMIS, ATTENDED BY HIS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, RUDY GONTHA AND FSOS ROCKE AND TONESK, I COMPLEMENTED HIS ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE AND ASKED WHERE HIS ORGANIZATION WAS HEADING. MARAMIS
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INDICATED THAT HE IS GIVING FIRST PRIORITY TO THE SOCIAL

ASPECTS OF ECAFE'S OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATE TO MASS POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE REGION. HE STRONGLY BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT ECAFE'S NEW NAME SHOULD INCLUDE THE WORD "SOCIAL". MARAMIS HOPES TO PRESENT THE REPORT OF HIS "WISE MEN" ON THE FUTURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF ECAFE AT THE NEXT PLENARY IN COLOMBO IN MARCH.

3. ENERGY CONFERENCE: MARAMIS WAS PLEASED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THE ECAFE ENERGY CONFERENCE HE IS PLANNING FOR FEBRUARY 25. HE HOPED THAT THE ENERGY PAPERS REQUESTED WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE JANUARY 31 DEADLINE, AND WE ASSURED HIM THAT WE ARE UNDERLINING THIS DEADLINE IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT. HE ALSO ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE SERVICES OF AMERICAN ENERGY CONSULTANTS.

4. TRAVEL PLANS: MARAMIS WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO HIS NATIVE INDONESIA NEXT WEEK AND THEN VISIT UN NEW YORK FROM JAN. 17 TO 25. HE WILL RETURN VIA PAKISTAN AND THEN PLANS TO VISIT ONLY SAIGON AND NEPAL BEFORE THE MARCH PLENARY. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO VISIT PEKING UNTIL AFTER THE PLENARY.

5. PRC STAFFING: MARAMIS DOES NOT EXPECT THE PRC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ECAFE WILL SHOW UP IN BANGKOK UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH PLENARY MEETING. HE UNDERSTANDS THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN CONTACTING SOME REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO GET THEIR VIEWS ON ECAFE. MARAMIS DOES NOT EXPECT THE CHINESE TO OBJECT TO THE ECAFE RATIONALIZATION PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THIS PLENARY, BECAUSE THESE IDEAS ARE MAINLY THOSE OF THE REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, MARAMIS NOTED THAT THE RUSSIANS STILL SEEM TO BE EXCESSIVELY WORRIED ABOUT ACTIVE CHINESE PARTICIPATION, AND HE HAS USED THEIR APPARENT ANXIETY TO TRY TO SECURE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ECAFE RATIONALIZATION PROPOSALS BY ARGUING THAT "NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO COME ON BOARD -- BEFORE THE CHINESE SHOW UP".

6. COMMENT: MARAMIS STRUCK ME AS A MAN FULLY IN CHARGE OF HIS ORGANIZATION WITH A KEEN SENSE OF WHERE HE IS GOING. HE IS FRIENDLY TO US, AND I ASSURED HIM OF OUR CONTINUING FULL SUPPORT. HE HOPES TO PROVE AT THE PLENARY THAT BY CHANGING ITS GOALS AND RESTRUCTURING THE ORGANIZATION, ECAFE IS STILL RELEVANT TO THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGION WHICH CONTAINS HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. THE OUTCOME OF HIS ENERGY CONFERENCE WILL APPARENTLY HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE IMAGE MARAMIS HOPES TO PROJECT AT COLOMBO.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ENERGY CONFERENCE, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON PROVIDE THE ENERGY DATA REQUESTED FOR THIS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS AND/OR CONSULTANTS ON ENERGY. SUCH ENERGY

CONSULTANTS COULD ALSO PROVIDE NEEDED ADVICE TO THE THAI
GOVERNMENT.
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